

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

After the foregoing Amendment, Claims 1-11 and 16-17 are currently pending in this Application. Claims 1-7 and 10-11 have been amended to correct minor informalities. Claims 1-2 and 8-10 have been amended to more distinctly claim the subject matter the Applicant regards as his invention. Claims 12-15 have been cancelled. In the specification, paragraphs [0063] and [0065] have been amended to correct informalities. Applicants submit that no new matter has been introduced into the application by these amendments.

Objections to the Specification

The Examiner objected to the specification because of informalities in paragraphs [0063] and [0065]. After the foregoing Amendment, the specification has been amended to correct informalities in paragraphs [0063] and [0065]. The withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to Claim 14 because of a typographical error resulting in informality. Claim 14 has been cancelled.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC §112

Claims 1-7 and 10-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Claims 1-7 and 10-11 have been amended to comply with the definiteness requirement of 35 U.S.C. §112. The withdrawal of the rejections to Claims 1-7 and 10-11 is respectfully requested.

Declaration pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.131

The Applicants respectfully submit the present Application was invented at least as early as April 16, 2002. A Declaration pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.131 is enclosed herewith along with Exhibit A, which is a copy of an Inventor Disclosure Form and Invention Disclosure submitted by the inventors to their company's Legal Department on April 16, 2002. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit the effective date of the present Application is at least as early as April 16, 2002.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §102 & 103

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0229595 to Monmonen et al., (hereinafter "Mononen") further in view of U.S. Patent Publication No.

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2003/0134636 to Sundar et al. (hereinafter “Sundar”). Claims 4 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mononen and Sundar and further in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0235174 to Pichna et al. (hereinafter “Pichna”). Claims 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 7,072,663 to Ramos et al. (hereinafter “Ramos”). Mononen was filed June 5, 2002, therefore, the effective date of Mononen as a reference is at best June 5, 2002. Pichna was filed June 24, 2002, therefore, the effective date of Pichna as a reference is at best June 24, 2002. Ramos was published April 18, 2002, therefore, the effective date, under §102(e) of Ramos as a reference is at best April 18, 2002.

Claims 1-11 and 16-17 were all rejected in view of some combination of Mononen, Pichna, or Ramos. Since the effective date of the present Application is before the effective date of each of Mononen, Pichna, and Ramos, the Applicants respectfully submit the Application is in condition for allowance, and withdrawal of the Section 103 rejections of claims 1-11 and 16-17 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that any additional minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, or that a telephone interview will help to materially advance the prosecution of this

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application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application, including claims 1-11 and 16-17, is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Menon et al.

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